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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 3, 2006. Claims 63 to 73 are pending in the application, with Claims 25 to 48, 58, 74 and 75 having been cancelled. Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 63 to 73 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73, Applicants have rewritten Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73 into independent form and to include the substance of base Claim 58, which has been cancelled. Consequently, independent Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73 as amended, together with their dependent claims, are seen to be in condition for allowance.

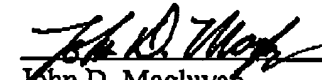
Claims 58, 74 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 58, 74 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 58, 74 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,467,434 (Hower) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,911 (Berstis). Claims 25 to 48, 58, 74 and 75 have been cancelled, and Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73 have been amended as noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested to receive an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 24, 2006.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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